

**I. Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Previously presented): A method of preparing a bioavailable sustained release tablet comprising:

combining (i) a medicament in amorphous form, (ii) a wetting agent and (iii) a sustained release excipient to obtain a mixture; said sustained release excipient comprising a gelling agent, an ionizable gel strength enhancing agent, and an inert diluent, the ratio of inert diluent to gelling agent being from about 1:8 to about 8:1, said ionizable gel strength enhancing agent increasing the gel strength of a gel formed when said solid dosage form is exposed to environmental fluid, and said gelling agent comprising xanthan gum and locust bean gum in a ratio of from about 1:3 to about 3:1;

thereafter drying and milling said mixture to obtain a sustained release tablet;  
applying a support platform to said tablet; and

forming said sustained release product into orally administrable unit doses.

Claim 2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the medicament has an aqueous solubility of less than 10 g/liter.

Claim 3. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the wetting agent is polyethylene glycol.

Claim 4. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said medicament is selected from the group consisting of nifedipine, nimodipine, nivadipine, nitrendipine, nisolidipine, niludipine, nicardipine and felodipine.

Claim 5. (Previously presented): The method of claim 4, wherein said medicament is nifedipine.

Claim 6. (Previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein the polyethylene glycol is mixed with water to form a polyethylene glycol-water slurry prior to the combination of the medicament with the excipient.

Claim 7. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising adding an amount of a pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophobic material effective to slow the hydration of the gelling agent when said solid dosage form is exposed to gastrointestinal fluid.

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Previously presented): The method of claim 7, wherein said mixture of, gelling agent, ionizable gel strength enhancing agent, hydrophobic material and inert diluent are premanufactured as a sustained release excipient.

Claim 10. (Previously presented): The method of claim 7, wherein said hydrophobic material is added to the sustained release excipient prior to the medicament, wetting agent, and sustained release excipient.

Claims 11 -13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Previously presented): The method of claim 7, wherein said hydrophobic material is selected from the group consisting of alkylcellulose, hydrophobic cellulosic materials, polymers or copolymers derived from acrylic or methacrylic acid esters, copolymers of acrylic and methacrylic acid esters, zein, waxes, shellac, and hydrogenated vegetable oils.

Claim 15. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said ionizable gel strength enhancing agent is selected from the group consisting of monovalent, divalent and multivalent organic or inorganic salts and mixture thereof.

Claim 16. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said ionizable gel strength enhancing agent is selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal, alkali metal chloride, alkali metal borate, alkali metal bromide alkali metal citrate, alkali metal acetate, alkali metal lactate, alkaline earth metal sulfate, alkaline earth metal chloride, alkaline earth metal borate, alkaline earth metal bromide, alkaline earth metal citrate, alkaline earth metal acetate, alkaline earth metal lactate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Previously presented): A method of treating a patient comprising administering a tablet prepared according to claim 1, to a patient in need of antihypertensive treatment.

Claim 19. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said support platform comprises a polymeric material insoluble in aqueous liquids.

Claim 20. (Previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein said polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of derivatives of acrylic acid, celluloses and derivatives thereof, polyvinylalcohols, and the like.

Claim 21. (Previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein said polymeric material is ethylcellulose.

Claim 22. (Previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein said support platform is compression coated onto part of a surface of said tablet.

Claim 23. (Previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein said support platform has a thickness of about 2mm.

Claim 24. (Previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein said polymeric material is spray dried onto part of the surface of said tablet.

Claim 25. (Previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein said tablet is immersed in a solution of a polymeric material to form said support platform.

Claim 26. (Previously presented): The method of claim 24, wherein said support platform has a thickness of about 10 $\mu$ m.

Claim 27. (Previously presented): The method of claim 25, wherein said support platform has a thickness of about 10 $\mu$ m.

Claim 28. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the ratio of said medicament to said gelling agent is from about 1:3 to about 1:8.

Claim 29. (Currently amended): The method of claim ~~17~~ 14, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophobic material is included in the sustained release excipient in an amount from about 1 to about 20 percent by weight.

Claim 30. (Previously presented): The method of claim 29, wherein the hydrophobic material is ethyl cellulose.